

THE COUNCIL BULLETIN

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CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF THE BLIND, INC.

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THE COUNCIL BULLETIN

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LEGISLATIVE NEWS

By Beverly Gladden

Since the last Bulletin, several new bills have been introduced.

A. B. 1298: Charles Meyers, San Francisco, Assembly Committee on Government Economy and Efficiency: This bill would make it possible for blind vending stand operators to purchase their equipment if they so desire. It stipulates that, in the event of the death of the operator or the resale of the equipment, the State be given first chance to repurchase the equipment.

A. B. 1775: Edward Gaffney of San Francisco, Assembly Committee on Social Welfare: This bill would increase the amount of the basic grant for both ANB and APSB recipients in the amount of \$10.00 a month to a figure of \$134.00. Many of you will remember Mr. Gaffney as the Assemblyman who accompanied a group of us to visit the Governor during the last legislative session.

A. B. 1774: Edward Gaffney of San Francisco, Assembly Committee on Social Welfare: This bill would increase the amount of aid for both ANB and APSB recipients who are receiving the maximum aid grant under the special needs allowance by \$12.00 a month to a new maximum of \$186.00.

A. B. 2101: William Stanton of San Jose, Assembly Committee on Social Welfare: This bill would establish within the Department of Social Welfare a revolving loan fund to be used by blind persons wishing to pursue a plan for self-support for which they have been unable to procure assistance from rehabilitation services. This bill is a direct result of a resolution introduced at the Spring Convention of the Council in 1962.

The Council is in the process of preparing another bill which, although it has not yet been introduced, promises to be the most exciting prospect of this legislative session. In line with his policy of reorganizing State agencies and departments in an all-out effort for economy and efficiency, Governor Brown has proposed that all services for the adult blind be transferred from the Department of Education where they are functioning at present, to the new Health and Welfare Agency in a new Department of Rehabilitation. These include rehabilitation services, California Industries for the Blind, Orientation Center, Opportunity Work Centers, and Rehabilitation Field Services. The Council's bill will offer another solution which, if adopted, would be a great step

forward in solving many of the problems which have plagued the blind of California for the past several years. The Council's bill proposes that all services for the adult blind be placed in one agency or department under the supervision of the Chief of the Division for the Blind in the Department of Social Welfare. The Council has long desired a division for the blind in this State. If we are successful in consolidating all services for the adult blind, we may make the greatest step forward in a decade.

DR. ISABELLE GRANT, "THE BLIND WOMAN WITH A VISION"

Without doubt, Dr. Grant is one of the busiest and most effective workers in the cause of the blind to be found in the entire Indian Subcontinent. She has made hundreds of appearances before teachers, administrators, businessmen, government officials, civic groups, and parents. She has been written up in scores of newspaper articles. She has been seeing people, demonstrating, and promoting educational services for the blind children of every section of Pakistan.

The Pakistan Times devoted a leading article to one of her appearances and accorded her the tribute of "the blind woman with a vision." The article observes that, "She has lived an astonishingly purposeful life . . . Her energy and enthusiasm about life are infectious." The reporter noted that Isabelle said little about herself, when interviewed, but launched into the subject of her mission which is simply to bring about more and better education for many more of the thousands of blind children of Pakistan.

Her work, her message, and her demonstrations are not falling on deaf ears. Anyone who knows and has heard Dr. Grant can readily appreciate that, for her zeal and ability to state her points effectively and convincingly command recognition and active support from those who have been exposed to her message.

She has won support for her work from governmental officials and has been consulted by various commissions and official bodies. Her work has been publicized by the United States Information Service.

She secured the participation of the national Department of Education for the ten weeks seminar which she has been leading for educators, college instructors, teachers, administrators, and physicians from all sections of Pakistan. It is covering all aspects of the subject of education of blind children and youth. The seminar offers lectures, panel discussions, demonstrations and field trips. Braille, both English and Urdu, is being taught to teachers, as well as instruction in the preparation of reading material and the use of braille writing equipment. Teaching methods, philosophy, and concepts are receiving adequate emphasis. Considerable time is being devoted to critical evaluation of various types of educational programs for blind children. Representatives of leading libraries, civic groups, agencies for the blind, and governmental bodies are also attending.

It is significant that the press of Pakistan has already noted the outstanding work that Isabelle is performing and finds that she has attracted a band of "remarkably devoted" fellow workers. A teacher in Pasrur has been singled out for praise for the program she directs.

In reviewing the material which the Council has received pertaining to Dr. Grant's activities, it is obvious that an historic movement has been stirring in Pakistan and that she has instigated it and inspired it. The California Council of the Blind, the National Federation of the Blind, and the Government of the United States of America can well be proud of her.

BLIND GIRL TAKES PEACE CORPS JOB

(from a San Antonio, Texas, newspaper, February 20, 1963)

A diminutive blond who didn't let blindness keep her from becoming a teacher has gone to work for the Peace Corps. She is Marilyn D. Brandt, 23, and she arrived Sunday at Santo Domingo, in the Dominican Republic, to take up her new job.

Officials in Washington got around to announcing yesterday that the Peace Corps had accepted her as its first blind volunteer. "It was kind of a hurryup deal," her mother, Mrs. Day Brandt, explained last night. "They needed somebody who could read and teach Braille."

Marilyn's parents both have been public school teachers for more than two decades.

As a child she possessed limited vision. Glaucoma finally caused total blindness when she was 13. "But it has never seemed to bother her," related Mrs. Brandt. "She was a good student, making all A's and B's in college, and she finished practice teaching for her certificate last spring."

Miss Brandt, barely over 5 feet tall and weighing 100 pounds, was graduated from the Texas School for the Blind at Austin in 1957.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

The enthusiastic response of all Council chapters in getting letters written to Governor Brown, State Senators and Assemblymen, has been very gratifying. Council supported bills which would result in changes and improvements in programs for the blind and bills which, if enacted into law, would have destructive effects on programs for the blind, are now being heard by legislative committees. The Council office is making every effort to keep you informed as to the progress of these measures in the Assembly and the Senate by issuing legislative bulletins as promptly as possible. All of us must be determined to maintain, and even step up, the pace of letter writing as bills reach crucial points in the legislative process.

The February issue of the Council Bulletin carried a news release from Western Union Telegraph Company concerning the inauguration of Personal Opinion Messages to State officers and legislators but since time was of the essence in getting the Bulletin to press, the story of the action which led to the issuance of the news release was omitted. It is a fine example of what can be accomplished through the determined effort of one Council member. The new intra-state POM service is a direct result of the initiative and foresight of Council Secretary, James B. Garfield. Jim knew of the POM service to Washington, D.C., and he felt that it should also be available to Sacramento. He followed up his idea by contacting the proper officials of Western Union and got results. I want to congratulate Jim for his successful effort and I urge every chapter and individual member to make good use of the new service.

Although the task is a very difficult one, Leona Ayotte of Gardena has assumed the responsibility of directing our 1963 White Cane Week mail campaign. Her bountiful supply of energy and enthusiasm got the job done in 1962 and will get it done again this year.

Mrs. Ruth Newton, state chairman of the "Glasses for Pakistan" project, tells me that 300 pounds of lenses and frames have been delivered to CARE in Philadelphia for trans-shipment to Pakistan. A crew of Valley Braille Blazers gathered at Ruth's home to do the careful packing which is necessary; the Noland Paper Company of Los Angeles contributed the cartons and packing material; and the Weber Aircraft Corporation of Burbank made the shipping crate and paid the

freight charges to Philadelphia. I think Dr. Grant left the project she conceived in very able hands to carry it on successfully.

The Capitol Chapter is working hard to make our Spring Convention the most informative and the most enjoyable, so get your reservations into the Hotel Senator, Sacramento, and come prepared to work hard and have some fun. See you there.

A LEGISLATIVE LOBBYIST AT WORK

Paper Delivered at the Convention of the
Associated Blind of Massachusetts
September 22-23, 1962

by John Nagle

"A person needs to be an engineer to find his way around in this building." This is what I usually say when I call upon a passer-by for assistance in locating a particular office in the Senate or House Office Buildings. I used to make this remark as an apology - but I do so no longer. For the answer is invariably the same: "I get lost in here myself and I've worked here for six months (or six years)."

Recently, I asked a man where a certain room was situated, giving the room number. He replied that he wasn't sure, but would help me find it since he was going in that direction anyway. When we reached the room we sought, it was the office in which the man worked. I said he was very lucky he had met me that morning, he might never have gotten to work. Laughingly he explained that he knew where he worked, but just wasn't as familiar with the room numbers as I was.

When I first enter a congressional office building, I try to guess the entrance that will be closest to the office I intend visiting, for the buildings are all huge and the corridors endlessly long - but I always guess wrong and have to walk miles to my destination.

As I travel through the congressional office buildings, I talk with everyone I meet. I talk with the elevator operators about their college courses and their plans after graduation - for those in the Senate buildings are students, working their way through school under the patronage of their home state senators.

I talk with the outside guards about the problems of parked cars in "No Parking" zones. I talk with inside guards about tourists and their insatiable appetite for souvenirs - "they'll take anything that isn't nailed down, and some of them will even try to rip up things that are nailed down."

I talk with messenger boys and telegraph delivery boys and girls (who are sometimes elderly men and women) about how tired they must be at the end of their day, trudging through never-ending hallways -

and I suggest that we should get some member of Congress to introduce a bill to run buses through the buildings - and to this they unanimously agree.

Receptionists, secretaries, and staff assistants always welcome me cordially when I enter an office. When I am offered a chair, a cup of coffee, or help in removing my coat, I always explain that I am not a constituent - they really don't have to be so nice to me, but then I hasten to add that, of course, I might move to their state some day and become a voting constituent.

Once I arrived at an office, only to learn that the Congressman would not be available to keep his appointment with me. His three female secretaries were so interested, however, that I explained the provisions of the bill I wanted their boss to introduce. The three agreed it was a good bill and promised that if their boss-congressman wouldn't put it in the "hopper", as I requested, they would all quit on him - and they would tell him so, too. Needless to say, the Congressman did introduce the bill.

I always travel alone when I am promoting Federation legislation on the "Hill" - or anywhere else, for that matter, when I am representing the National Federation of the Blind. I believe that, since I argue for the greater independence of blind people, I myself must demonstrate our ability to function independently.

Early in June of this year, I visited all 100 of the Senate offices, seeking support for our amendments to the Public Welfare bill. I started out Monday noon, and called upon my 100th office Thursday noon - all in the same week. Although our amendments were defeated, I believe this expenditure of time and strength was well worth the effort for it proved to all with whom I talked that, when a blind person has a job to do, he is able to do it.

As I operate in Washington for the NFB, I am many things.

I am a lobbyist, seeking adoption by Congress of the legislative objectives of the organized blind. To forward these objectives, I present testimony in public hearings conducted by congressional committees. I prepare my statement in advance and read from Braille, after having re-read it many times so that I can present it properly. Unfortunately, the committee members are usually much more impressed with my exhibition of finger-reading than they are with my logical arguments.

Before a hearing, I visit the hearing chamber long before the crowd gathers, in ample time to allow me to select a seat so situated that I can walk, unaided, to the witness chair.

I try to anticipate questions that may be asked, and inform myself on them.

Following a hearing, I mail, or deliver in person, a copy of my testimony to committee members, and try to talk to each one about the issues involved in the hearings.

Shortly after I came to Washington, I asked Tim Seward with much seriousness how one got bills passed by Congress. Tim, as you know, is Administrative Assistant to Congressman Baring of Nevada, and has had many years experience on the "Hill". Tim laughed and said people had been trying to figure this out ever since Congress first convened, that if I could learn the answer, I would be the first person who ever had. Tim then laughed again with a laugh that said: "Just how silly and innocent can a person be?"

But, all Tim's Washington wisdom to the contrary notwithstanding, I have found the way to get bills passed by Congress and the answer is a very simple one: You work very hard, and try everything. You call upon committee members so often they know your name and identify your particular bill with their favorable recollection of you. In this way, you separate your proposal, your particular bill, from the thousands of bills which are introduced in each Congress. Then, if you work hard enough, if your bill is a good bill, if it has a constructive purpose, and if it is supported by logical arguments and substantiating facts - then, if you're real lucky - then, you may, for my solution is not a guaranteed success every time - you may get your bill passed - or you may get a provision of your bill passed - or the committee report may refer to the situation your bill would correct, thus paving the way (you hope) for its enactment in the next Congress.

Yes, I am a lobbyist, working to change legislative proposals into federal law, but I am also a promoter - a promoter of ideas and concepts. I am a spokesman for dreams unfulfilled, for aspirations and hopes unrealized, for ambitions thwarted and thrust aside by paternalism and prejudice, by thoughtless kindness, by smug and satisfied indifference.

I, too, am an educator trying to dispel myths and misconceptions,

trying to correct false legends and folk tales, trying to combat the authoritative misrepresentations about blindness and blind people that have come down through the centuries.

In Washington, congressmen are always accessible. A telephone call will set up an appointment with even the busiest member. They are invariably friendly, welcoming my views on particular bills. Many pledge their support when the measures come up "on the floor". All are curious, and some ask me questions, not about my legislation, but about myself. And I answer them with frankness and thoughtfulness, considering such questions an opportunity to expound our philosophy.

Senators are not as accessible as congressmen, and I have met few of them. Ordinarily, I deal with their staff assistants and hope that, by convincing them of the merits of our measures, they, in turn, will convince their senators to support our proposals.

One day, as I got out of an elevator in the Old Senate Office Building, I asked the operator where Room 254 was, the office of Senator Hartke of Indiana. The man standing next to me said: "Come on, I am going to that office myself." As we walked along the corridor, I introduced myself, as I always do, giving my name and stating that I represented the NFB in Washington. I then asked him his name and what he did. He replied: "I am Senator Hartke. I represent the State of Indiana in the United States Senate, and some people don't think I do very much."

Since that first meeting, Senator Hartke and I have met many times, and I can assure you that he does do very much. Particularly, he has done very much for the blind of America. Senator Hartke has become the sponsor in the Senate of our legislative efforts to make the federally-supported state programs of aid to the blind a force for rehabilitation in the lives of blind people. He has become our partisan, the spokesman of our views and aspirations in the Finance Committee, the Committee which has jurisdiction over all Social Security amending bills.

The corridors in the congressional office buildings are common passageways for ordinary folk and for national figures alike. Several months ago, I was looking for the hearing room of the Senate Committee on Government Operations and I asked a person passing by where it was located. When he spoke to me, I immediately recognized the voice of Senator Everett Dirksen of Illinois, Republican Minority Leader in the Senate. Excitedly, I thrust out my hand and said:

"Senator Dirksen, I have heard your voice so many times I recognized you. I am John Nagle." The astonished gentleman shook hands with me and walked the few steps to the room I was seeking. And, I am sure, he left me firmly convinced that blind people are truly amazing people.

That night, when I described my experience to my wife, I concluded: "I acted like a real tourist today."

And, although I have worked in Washington for several years and have met important people and taken part in important events, I am still a tourist at heart.

When I appear before a congressional committee as a witness for the Federation, I am extremely nervous - very much aware that I am a small-town lawyer up in the real "big leagues". In describing my activities in Washington, I have used the personal pronoun "I" many times. I have done so, not as a manifestation of personal vanity, but, I have used it as a necessary tool of narration. I, John Nagle, am of slight significance in Washington. As a representative of the organized blind in Washington, I am of much significance.

The efforts I make are made on your behalf. The friends I acquire are acquired for our cause. The successes I have had are your successes. The dreams and hopes I talk about in Washington are your dreams and your hopes. But, I do not argue your cause with cool detachment as an attorney might, representing a casual client. When I speak for the Federation, I speak with the fervor of conviction, with the sincerity of profound personal belief. For, though I represent your interests and concerns in Washington, I, too, am a blind person, and I share your interests and your concerns as a blind person.

I am the representative of the NFB in Washington. I say this often as I pursue my many activities, all directed toward the ultimate realization of our goals - and each time it is a new thrill for me, a new challenge to me to be equal in my endeavors to the needs of our cause.

We, who describe ourselves as Federationists, are truly fortunate people for we fight on the side of the angels. We wage war against prejudice and discrimination. We seek equality of opportunity; not special and preferred status. We work for all who are blind, not just for ourselves. And, because of our efforts, because of our dedication to our cause, thousands of people who do not know of us, people who have never heard our names or our organization's name will live better lives - and so will we.

JOB CLEARING HOUSE NEWS

The Job Clearing House is able to chalk up another position for which it can take credit for the initial contact. Guy Emery, Treasurer of the Capitol Chapter of the Council, has won a position as Groundsman, maintaining Sutter's Fort part of the State Park System in Sacramento. Though not now legally blind, due to a successful operation a few years ago, Guy still has some visual loss and does not drive a car. He also has a hearing loss. The position he has was gained after passing a State Civil Service examination.

SEVERELY DISABLED ORGANIZE

A new organization of disabled persons has been established. On Saturday, January 26, 1963, the California Federation of the Severely Disabled adopted its constitution and launched its plan of work. It will bring a number of separate existing organizations together and will foster the establishing of additional chapters throughout the state. Miss Mary Robertson of San Francisco and Mr. Robert Penn, president of the Bay Counties Post-Polio Association have spearheaded the formation of the new federation. Their constitution was modeled after that of the California Council of the Blind. An organization such as this has an important and necessary function to perform, not only in presenting to society's attention the problems and needs of the very severely disabled persons, but also the work of having those needs fulfilled.

Ten Brock is chairman

Following the adoption of the constitution, the new organization sent the following night letter to Governor Brown: "We urge you to do your utmost to maintain the present powers and functions of the State Board of Social Welfare. It is imperative for the severely disabled that effective State supervision of the counties be maintained and that appeals for fair hearings be made and decided by the State Board. Also, welfare and personnel policies should be retained in the jurisdiction of the State Board of Social Welfare. We trust you to act in the interest and protection of the future welfare of all California disabled persons."

We congratulate the severely disabled of California and commend their new organization.

NEWEL PERRY SCHOLARSHIP POLICY STATEMENT

(Editor's note: The following Policy Statement was submitted by the Newel Perry Scholarship Committee at the Fall Convention of the California Council of the Blind, 1962, and was adopted by the convention as Article IX of the Council's By-Laws.)

Preamble:

The California Council of the Blind was founded in 1934 by Dr. Newel Perry, its President Emeritus. The Newel Perry scholarships were created by the California Council of the Blind as a loving memorial to his achievements, and as a tribute to his work for higher education, better legislation and complete integration of the blind.

Purpose, Aims and Objects:

The California Council assists those that established agencies cannot. Because the blind must have the requisite skill and education to achieve success, the Newel Perry scholarships are offered to assist financially in their educational requirements. Any qualified blind student entering or attending an accredited college or university in California may apply for a scholarship.

Manner of Selection:

The following points shall be considered in determining qualifications: Grade point average; financial need; applicant's nearness to fulfillment of educational or vocational aim and other determining factors.

Applications shall be distributed as widely as possible throughout the state by persons, agencies or organizations that contact blind students planning to enter or now attending college.

The committee shall meet sufficiently in advance of the opening of fall and spring terms to allow for rating and notifying the applicant, or applicants, who are to receive the scholarship.

Amount of Award and Personnel of Committee:

The number of scholarships and amount of each shall be determined by the Executive Board of the California Council, according to funds available. The President of the Council shall appoint a chairman and four members who will constitute the Newel Perry Scholarship Committee.

LETTER TO DR. DOYLE

March 25, 1963

Mr. Frank W. Doyle, Chief
Division of Special Schools & Services
Department of Education
721 Capitol Avenue
Sacramento 14, California

Dear Frank:

As I reported to you several weeks ago, the students throughout the State feel that the \$1.00 per hour rate makes it extremely difficult to get competent readers. At your suggestion, we have made a survey of the situation. We contacted a number of colleges where blind students are enrolled. I am enclosing two of the replies that indicated that a dollar per hour was too low and made it difficult for blind students to get readers. Some of the others indicated that the blind students were able to get readers for a dollar an hour but in part because the readers felt that they were doing a social service.

I would recommend that you plan now to increase the rate for readers throughout the State to \$1.25. In addition to the letters, I have enclosed from the University of California and San Francisco City College whose campuses contain among the largest population of blind students, I understand that the Department of Industrial Relations will soon set the minimum wage for women at \$1.25 per hour. The Federal hourly wage will also soon be \$1.25. It seems incongruous that blind students should be seeking readers below the minimum wage. If you need assistance in obtaining a budget recommendation for the purpose of increasing readers' wages, if one is necessary, rest assured that the Council will be ready to support such a request.

Yours very truly,

Russell Kletzing

The following replies were received in answer to Mr. Kletzing's letter requesting information to ascertain from an objective source whether blind students are currently able to obtain readers without unreasonable difficulty at the current wage of \$1.00 per hour.

Helen Graham, Supervisor Student Placement, University of California writes: "From our experience we find that the rate is low. The girls around campus usually receive \$1.25 per hour for housework, ironing, and so forth, and from \$1.50 - \$1.75 per hour for typing and clerical."

Mr. Joseph Amori, Placement Director, City College of San Francisco writes: "In accordance with your request I wish to state that we have always had great difficulty filling jobs calling for the skills required in reading to blind students."

"During past years, the students asking for such services have paid out of pocket as much as 75¢ additional to receive services from normal students. The current rate for nearly all types of part-time jobs is \$1.50."

FROM THE PRESS

WELFARE 'RAID' LEGALITY PROBED IN CALIFORNIA (from The Washington Post, February 23, 1963)

The legality, morality and practicality of mass night "raids" on homes receiving Aid to Needy Children have been questioned by the State Social Welfare Board. The main targets of board members at an all-day hearing Thursday were officials from Alameda County, where a much publicized raid was carried out at 6:30 A.M., January 13, on 378 homes receiving Aid to Needy Children.

Dr. Jacobus tenBroek, Welfare Board Chairman, showed by his questioning that he feels the "unscheduled" Alameda visits violated the U. S. Constitution as well as State welfare regulations. Alameda County Board of Supervisors Chairman Kent Pursel insisted, however, that his board acted legally in ordering the early-morning calls. He and tenBroek clashed over whether 6:30 A.M. on Sunday morning, when the raid began, is night or day. Pursel contended that the visits were made in the daytime, but tenBroek said most people wouldn't consider that the case. Pursel also objected to newspaper stories calling the unscheduled visits "bedchecks" and "raids."

Under the Aid program, mothers are ineligible to receive welfare payments for their children if the father is present. The only exception is if the father is disabled. The principal purpose of the Alameda raids was to find "unreported" males in the household. This would disqualify the mother for such Aid. Thirty-seven "unreported" males were turned up in the Alameda raid.

"Were the welfare workers to check the bed?" tenBroek inquired. Pursel admitted that they were. "Then it was a bedcheck," the Welfare Board Chairman persisted. Pursel and Alameda County Welfare Director Harold Kehoe told the board that welfare workers making the visits were asked to survey living conditions for the children. They said another purpose was to determine if the family would be better off getting Aid checks on a bi-weekly, rather than monthly basis. They pointed out that workers requested permission to enter and that they were specifically instructed not to enter forcibly. This drew questioning from the Welfare Board as to whether a recipient of Aid is not under an implied threat when the welfare worker asks to enter the home.

"Unscheduled visits are a necessary part of determining eligibility," Pursel contended. But Kehoe told the hearing that he "would not recommend a mass operation of this kind again."

Another witness, Contra Costa County District Attorney John A. Nejedly, said he thought people asking for relief should "cooperate" in determining that the money is efficiently spent. He emphasized, however, that he favors legislation which would allow such Aid if the father is living at home but unemployed. "It seems strange to me that society has come to the point where finding the father in the home constitutes a crime," Nejedly stated.

* * * * *

PROFESSOR RAPS WELFARE PROGRAMS (from Oakland Tribune, March 15, 1963)

Modern-day welfare programs are largely designed to safeguard the health, safety, morals and well-being of the fortunate in a community, rather than to improve the lot of the unfortunate, according to Dr. Jacobus tenBroek, chairman of the California State Welfare Board.

Dr. tenBroek, a University of California professor and a recognized authority on constitutional law, concluded Contra Costa College's Challenges for Americans lecture series with this observation, plus some critical comments on the practical application of the Declaration of Independence statement that "all men are created equal."

He criticized the practice of blood typing and lie detector testing of aid to needy children mothers about the paternity of their offspring, night visits designed to catch errant ANC mothers, the withholding of aid from mothers found co-habiting, legalizing voluntary abortions, locking up wayward fathers and providing birth control information to relief recipients.

"All of this," he said, in the face of the 14th Amendment which declares that "no state shall deny to any person the equal protection of the laws."

A WORD ABOUT MIKE MC AVINEY

On February 15, I had the pleasure of meeting Mike McAviney, a 24-year-old student at Hartnell College in Salinas. Mike admits that he now has a consuming determination which regulates everything he does. That determination is to receive an assignment from the Peace Corps to work somewhere, anywhere outside the United States as a Peace Corps worker. His interest in the organized blind movement is related to his objective, for he hopes to be assigned to work with blind persons abroad.

Mike is a graduate of Technical High School in Oakland and the California School for the Blind. He had been advised to undergo training to operate a cigar stand or snack bar and was almost resigned to that when he met a sighted adult friend who urged him not to settle for that, but instead, to secure a college education. "I went home," said Mike, "thought about it a bit, and resolved that I would go to college."

Mike feels that the remarkable thing about his Peace Corps venture is that "I got off the dime and did something about it." He enlisted the help of State Senator Farr and United States Senator Engle whose correspondence with the Peace Corps brought action on his application. He spoke to each of the ten references listed in his application, explaining the feasibility of his ambition to be of useful service abroad.

Mike admits that he is now a better student and stated that, "I am out to learn everything I can that will help me get into the Peace Corps and to secure the highest possible grades."

AROUND THE STATE

Reports from Los Angeles:

On Thursday evening, February 28, Council chapter Active Blind held its first meeting in Sokol Hall, 500 N. Western Avenue. More than 100 members and friends attended what proved to be a most enthusiastic initiation of the new meeting location. Final approval of all the Corporation By-Laws and related business transitions were voted upon and completed. President Mannino explained and gave the reasons for recent actions taken by the organization as it embarks upon its mission of presenting a more enlightened philosophy and the dignified image of the blind to the public. Discussion of legislation and the "Person to Legislator" effort of the members were also highlights of the meeting.

Through the combined efforts of interested blind people in East Los Angeles and with the help and advice of Tony Mannino, a new club has been organized in East Los Angeles. It is called the East Los Angeles Council of the Blind, and it has already applied for membership in the California Council of the Blind. This is the first completely Spanish speaking organization to join the Council. Tony says he found these fine people most cooperative and eager to participate in Council activities. Oh, yes! Tony can speak Spanish. Ask him to prove it some time.

At the regular meeting of Saturday, March 2, the Associated Blind Students of Southern California approved a proposal to change the name of this Council chapter to Educational Organization of the Blind. Steps are now being taken to adopt the new name and make whatever changes necessary in the Constitution and By-Laws. The activities of this organization are being expanded in the field of education, as will be demonstrated by new projects soon to be undertaken by the membership.

The Centinela Valley Chapter of the Council was host to Council President Jim McGinnis and our legislative advocate, Beverly Gladden, at the chapter meeting held in Lawndale on Thursday evening, March 7.

The meeting was well attended and the intensely interested group listened to a very clear and detailed explanation of the Council's legislative bills for this session of the State law-making body.

The California Council of the Blind Speakers' Bureau in Southern California has been extremely busy filling various engagements on behalf of the Council. Jim Garfield, Tony Mannino and Council President McGinnis have been in gratifying demand to speak at luncheons and meetings of Lions Clubs, civic and social welfare organizations and organizations of the blind in the Southland. The story and picture of the Council is reaching many heretofore uninformed and yet potential friends of the Council. Other speakers will soon be joining the team.

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Due to the urgency of State Social Welfare legislation, the Valley Braille Blazers unanimously voted to step up their letter writing campaign to Assemblymen, State Senators and to Governor Brown. A full report on the many important issues at stake was given by Jim McGinnis.

Mrs. Ruth Newton, President of the Valley Braille Blazers, resigned as Council delegate. Charles Scharbor, Vice President, was elected to fill out the unexpired term.

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From Associated Blind Students of Northern California:

John Rodriquez resigned the presidency of the Associated Blind Students of Northern California at the March meeting. John is currently doing his practice teaching and carrying on interviews for a high school teaching position next fall. The newly elected president is Mike Yale who is in his sophomore year at the University of California. After he graduates he plans to enter law school. Miss Judy Wilkinson of San Leandro was re-elected to the office of secretary-treasurer. Judy is also a sophomore and is majoring in Political Science. John Rodriquez will be the organization's delegate at the Council convention in Sacramento.

John and Grace Rodriquez are the proud parents of a second daughter, Stephany Sue, who arrived on March 1. On March 13, Jerry and Ethyl Sealund welcomed their first child, a girl, name unknown to this writer. Both Jerry and Ethyl acquired guide dogs in January.

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From San Francisco Chapter of the California Council of the Blind:

Lon Sumner is the newly elected president of the San Francisco Chapter of the California Council of the Blind, succeeding Lawrence (Muzzy) Marcelino. Other officers elected are: Vice President, Muzzy Marcelino; Recording Secretary, Frank Butler; Corresponding Secretary, Janice Betz; Treasurer, Matt Lewis; Council delegate, Lon Sumner; Alternate delegate, Muzzy Marcelino; Members of Executive Committee, Gary Benjamin and Richard Santos.

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The annual bazaar of the East Bay Center for the Blind will be held on Friday and Saturday, May 10 and 11 from 12:00 noon to 10:00 p.m. Everyone living in the Bay Area who believes in the principle of blind persons managing their own recreational and educational activities can give practical expression to their viewpoint by patronizing the bazaar. Delicious dinners will be served on both evenings. Home-made cakes, candy and cookies will be available, as well as hand-made items by blind and sighted people - and plenty of "white elephants". Also hundreds of prizes at 10¢ a piece.

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From Marin County:

The Marin County Club of the Blind has commenced work for its proposed rummage sale. New members, blind and sighted, have been brought into the club and new zest has been instilled. Meeting

notices now appear in the newspapers and direct canvassing is being conducted to find blind persons for membership.

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Bulletin readers may be interested to know that George Avedik, a long time Council member and resident of Oakland, left slightly more than \$800.00 to the National Federation of the Blind. He left a similar amount to the American Brotherhood for the Blind. George's full legal name was Krikor G. Avedikian.

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